



# Maryland Influenza Surveillance Report

Infectious Disease and Environmental Health Administration  
Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response

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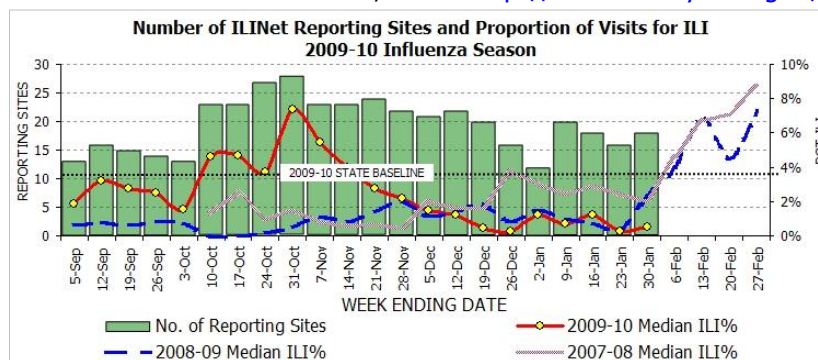
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## Synopsis

Influenza activity in Maryland **continued to remain at low levels** for the week ending January 30, 2010. The downward trend in activity indicators has now stabilized at a low level. **Low numbers of cases of lab-confirmed influenza continue to be reported from clinical offices and sentinel lab locations in the State.** Based on this information, the influenza activity level for Maryland continues to be "**Sporadic**". **Influenza vaccination against the 2009 H1N1 strain and the seasonal strains continues to be strongly encouraged since cases of influenza continue to be reported in Maryland.** For a list of locations offering influenza vaccine, please visit: <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/swineflu/getVaccinated.html>

## Outpatient Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance Network

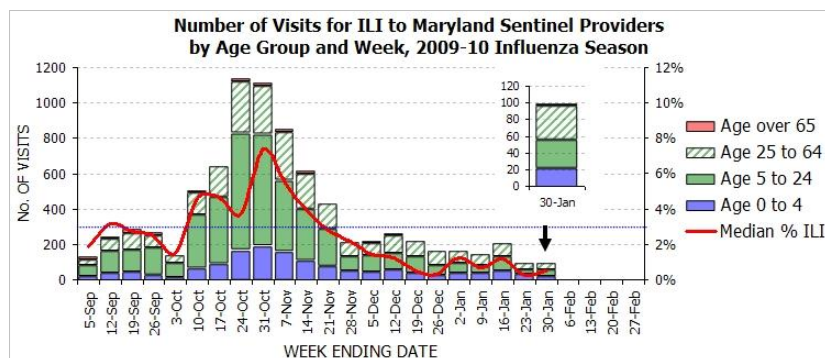
Eighteen sentinel providers reported a median proportion of visits for ILI of 0.5% for week 4. This is **below** the state-wide flu season baseline of 2.8% and below the proportion seen at this time last year. A total of 121 persons with ILI visited the 18 sentinel providers. For more information about the ILINet Surveillance Network, visit: <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/fluwatch>



The median proportion of visits to providers was below baseline last week, continuing the trend from the past 11 weeks.

## Influenza Activity Level in Maryland: SPORADIC

**Predominant influenza strain in Maryland during week 04:** Type A 2009 (H1N1) (formerly "swine flu" or "H1N1 flu")



Most of the persons who sought care at ILINet sites were below the age of 25.

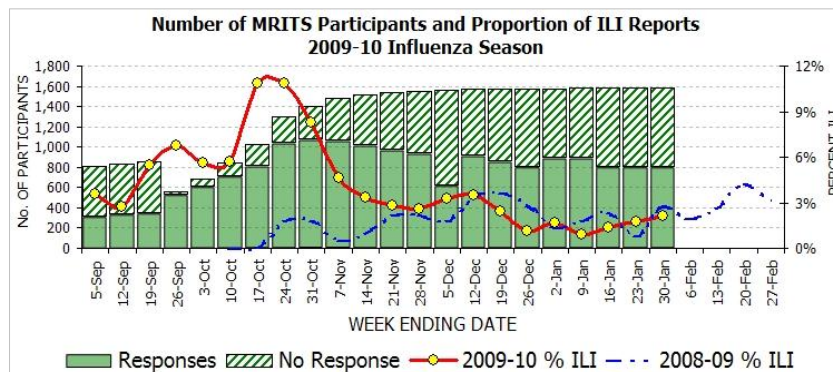
Join the MRITS fan page on Facebook at:

<http://tinyurl.com/mritsfb>



## Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking Survey (MRITS)

A total of 1,589 Maryland residents were enrolled in the system as of January 30, 2009. Of these, 800 (50%) responded to the weekly survey. Of those that responded, 17 (2.1%) reported flu-like symptoms. For more information on the MRITS, visit: <http://dhhm.maryland.gov/flusurvey>



The proportion of participants reporting influenza-like illness increased slightly last week, and it is below the proportion observed last year at this time.

Flu Type	No. of Positives	% of Total
Type A	8,940	95%
Type B	465	5%
Untyped <sup>2</sup>	68	<1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,472</b>	<b>100%</b>

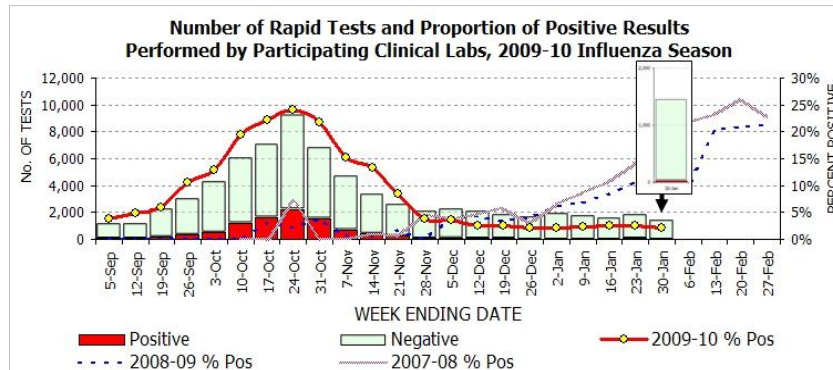
Number of positive rapid influenza tests by virus type, 2009-10 influenza season

### Notes:

- 1 Rapid influenza tests are less accurate when the prevalence of influenza is low.
- 2 Certain rapid influenza test kits do not differentiate between type A and type B viruses

## Clinical Laboratory Influenza Surveillance

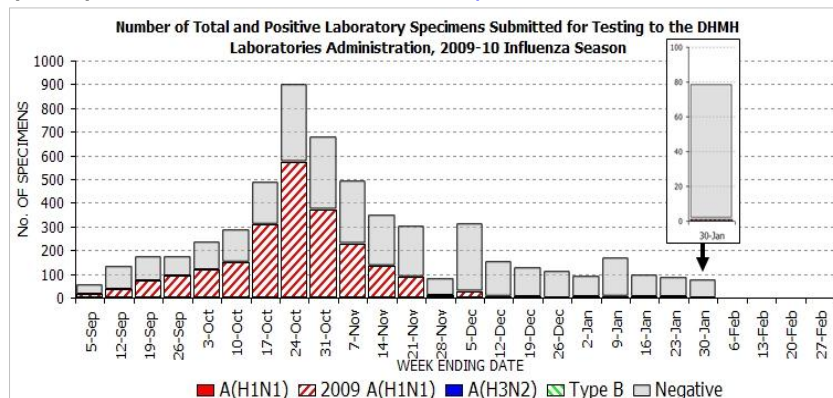
A total of 21 clinical laboratories reported 1,456 rapid influenza tests performed last week. Of those tests, 30 (2.1%) were positive, slightly lower than the previous week (2.5%). Of the 30 positive tests, 14 (47%) were reported as type A influenza, and 16 (53%) were type B.<sup>1, 2</sup>



The total number of tests performed and the proportion of those that are positive have stabilized at a low level.

## DHMH Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

Last week, a total of 79 specimens were submitted to the DHMH Lab for influenza testing. Of these, 1 (1.3%) were positive by PCR technique. It was a type A 2009 (H1N1). For more information, visit: <http://dhhm.state.md.us/labs/>



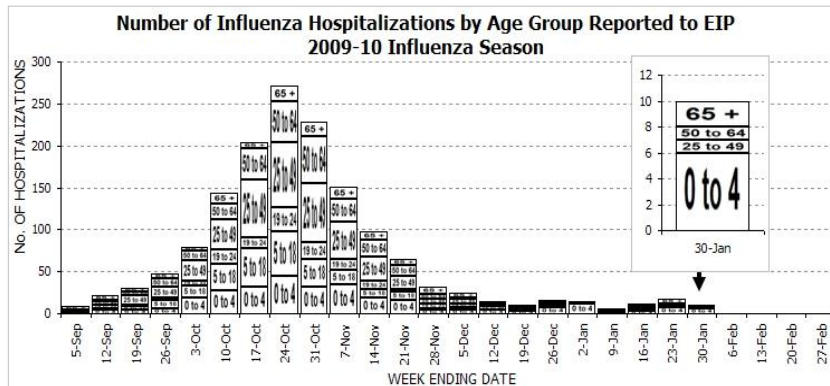
While the number of submitted specimens continues to fall, 2009 H1N1 influenza continues to be the dominant strain in Maryland.

Flu Strain	No. of PCR+ Specimens	% of Total
Type A(H1N1)	0	0%
Type A 2009 (H1N1)	2,255	98.4%
Type A(H3N2)	4	0.2%
Type B	3	0.1%
Equivocal	29	1.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,291</b>	<b>100%</b>



## Emerging Infections Program Flu Hospitalization Surveillance

During Week 4, a total of 10 people were reported hospitalized due to influenza in Maryland. Six of the 10 hospitalized people were in the 0 to 4 age group.



### For information on flu surveillance in states bordering Maryland, visit:

Delaware -

<http://bit.ly/9Zkp3>

D.C. -

<http://bit.ly/PNrVo>

Pennsylvania -

<http://bit.ly/gggRF>

Virginia -

<http://bit.ly/22C4g>

West Virginia -

<http://bit.ly/vtodo>

### United States flu info, visit:

<http://cdc.gov/flu>

### Updated Interim Recommendations for the Use of Antiviral Medications in the Treatment and Prevention of Influenza for the 2009-2010 Season (9/22/09 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention):

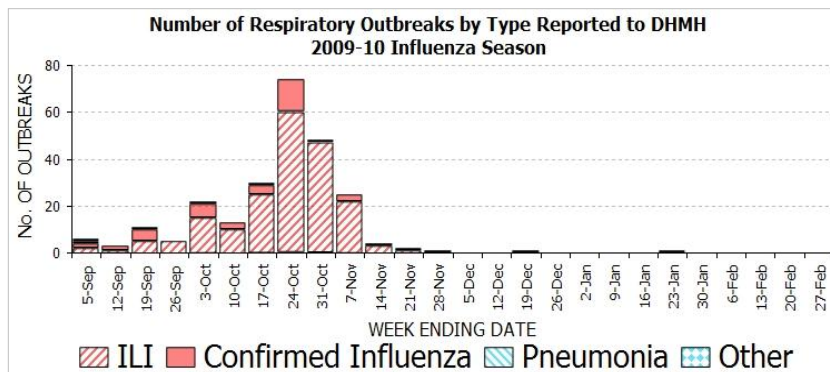
<http://bit.ly/48L0I4>

### World Health Organization flu information at:

<http://bit.ly/b37z1>

## Reports of Outbreaks in Institutional Settings

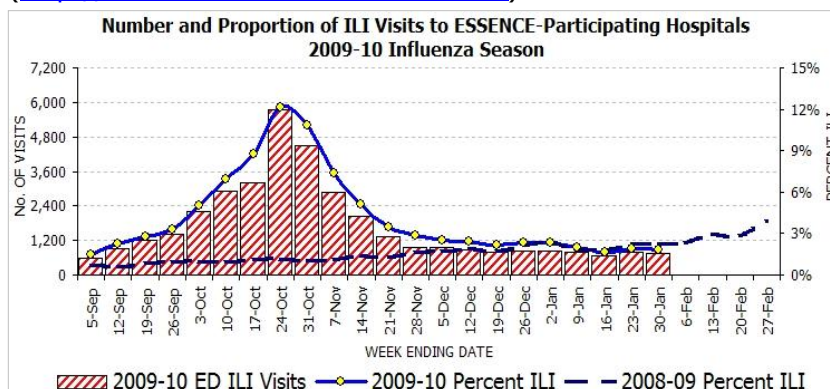
No outbreaks of influenza or influenza-like illness were reported to DHMH during week 4. Since August 30, 2009, a total of 246 outbreaks of respiratory illness in institutional settings have been reported.



## Emergency Department ILI Reports (ESSENCE)

Last week, a total of 40,333 people visited Maryland emergency departments that participate in ESSENCE. Of those, 729 (1.8%) visits were for flu-like illness. This proportion is a slight increase over the previous week. ESSENCE is a system monitored by the Office of Preparedness and Response.

(<http://bioterrorism.dhmd.state.md.us>)



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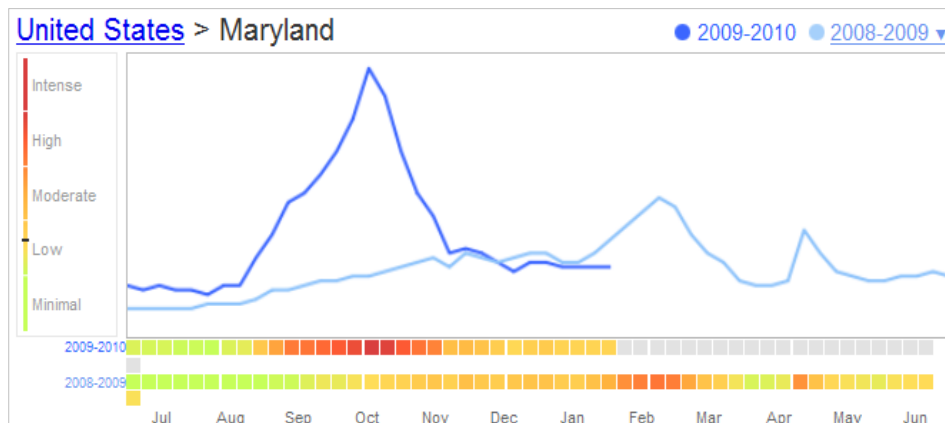
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Visit us on the web:

<http://dhmh.maryland.gov/>

## Google Flu Trends & Other Flu Tracking Reports

Google Flu Trends, which monitors on-line queries for flu-related terms, indicates that Maryland's flu activity is now "**low**". According to Google, the levels of flu activity are similar to those observed at this time last year. (<http://google.org/flutrends>)



## Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Weekly Flu Update ([www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly))

### Synopsis:

During week 4 (January 24-30, 2010), influenza activity remained at approximately the same levels as last week in the U.S.

- 119 (3.2%) specimens tested by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories and reported to CDC/Influenza Division were positive for influenza.
- All subtyped influenza A viruses reported to CDC were 2009 influenza A (H1N1) viruses.
- The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was above the epidemic threshold.
- Nine influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported. Eight deaths were associated with 2009 influenza A (H1N1) virus infection and one was associated with an influenza A virus for which the subtype was undetermined.
- The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.9% which is below the national baseline of 2.3%. All regions reported ILI below their region-specific baseline.
- No states reported widespread influenza activity, six states reported regional influenza activity, Puerto Rico and 10 states reported local influenza activity, the District of Columbia, Guam, and 31 states reported sporadic influenza activity, and the U.S. Virgin Islands and three states reported no influenza activity.

### Week Ending January 30, 2010- Week 4

